

1974

# Report of the Library Committee

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND  
KINGSTON, R. I. 02881

Office of the President

May 24, 1974

MEMORANDUM

RECEIVED

MAY 30 1974

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND  
FACULTY SENATE

TO: Dr. Maury Klein, Chairman  
Faculty Senate

FROM: William R. Ferrante, Acting President

SUBJECT: Faculty Senate Bill No. 73-74-30  
"Report of the Library Committee"

Maury,

This is to report to you that I have approved a change in title for the position of University Librarian. The position will henceforth be called Dean, University Libraries. I have enclosed a copy of my letter to George Parks relating to this.

I note that Faculty Senate Bill No. 73-74-30 - "Report of the Library Committee", which I have approved in principle recommended the addition of a new section to the University Manual, numbered 3.40.14 and titled "The Dean of Libraries (University Librarian)". I suggest that section 3.40.14 be retitled "Dean, University Libraries" for consistency with the title change which I have approved. I have deliberately omitted the former title "University Librarian" included within the parenthesis. In order to avoid confusion the position should have a single title.

WRF/pe

cc: Mr. George Parks

P.S. I trust that this memo will also serve to initiate action to have appropriate changes made throughout the University Manual.

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND  
KINGSTON, R. I. 02881

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Office of the President

May 24, 1974

Mr. George Parks, Dean  
University Libraries  
Campus

Dear George:

I am pleased to inform you that I have approved a change in your title from University Librarian to Dean, University Libraries. This change in title implies no change in your duties and responsibilities. The title change is made to reflect more accurately your position among University administrators and your relationship to the library faculty.

For the record, I note that this change is consistent with the recommendation of the Faculty Senate contained in Senate Bill No. 73.74-30 - "Report of the Library Committee", and my letter of April 1, 1974 to Dr. Klein, Chairman of the Faculty Senate.

Sincerely,



William R. Ferrante  
Acting President

WRF/pe

cc: Dr. M. Klein ✓ 

Vice President A. Michel  
Library Faculty  
Council of Deans

File under: \_\_\_\_\_

April 11, 1974

Dr. William R. Ferrante  
Acting President  
Administration Building

Dear Bill:

In response to your letter of April 1, 1974, concerning Faculty Senate Bill 73-74--30, "Report of the Library Committee," we note that you took no formal action on the bill even though your letter raised several objections to the report accompanying the bill. Since the three weeks "action" period has expired, the bill has gone into effect without your signature. You are, of course, still free to express your objections to the report on the floor of the Senate.

As to the librarian's new title, we would prefer to reserve judgment on the broader question of whether or not the Faculty Senate can legislate a title or whether you are at liberty to select an alternative title. In this particular case we have no objection to your doing so, though we suggest you consult the Library Committee and Mr. Parks since they have given this matter considerable thought. We are not in favor of referring to him as "Your Bookship" or (as his staff calls him), "He who throws the book at you."

Cordially,

Maury Klein  
Chairman, Faculty Senate

MK/tb

cc: Peterson  
Parks

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND  
KINGSTON, R. I. 02881

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Office of the President

April 1, 1974

RECEIVED

APR 1 1974

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND  
FACULTY SENATE

Dr. Maury Klein  
Chairman, Faculty Senate  
E. Roosevelt Hall  
Campus

Dear Maury:

I have enclosed Faculty Senate Bill Number 73-74-30;  
Report of the Library Committee.

I cannot and will not approve this entire bill in its present form. I will accept the recommendation contained in the bill which suggests the addition of two sections to the University Manual, Sections 3.40.13 and 3.40.14. I have approved in principle this part of the bill. The recommendation relating to section 3.40.14 suggests a different title for the University Librarian. Although, I am receptive to a change in title, after discussing this with the Council of Deans, I am not certain that "Dean of Libraries" is the proper title. Some of the deans expressed concern about possible confusion with the deanship of the Graduate Library School and the responsibilities associated with it. Alternatives which were suggested are "Dean of Library Services" and "Dean of the Library Faculty". I want to give the title more consideration before making a decision on this.

My reason for stating that I cannot approve the entire bill in its present form is that the third paragraph is in error. The following quoted from that paragraph: "For as a direct result of being a faculty without a dean, library faculty are in continual jeopardy in matters such as promotion, tenure and grievances. For example, grievances with respect to library faculty are not now referred to the dean of that faculty (since no such dean exists) but must be referred to an outside administrator. By administrative courtesy the University Librarian often functions as dean but such a role has no established legal basis and may be challenged at any time." is in error for the following reasons:

April 1, 1974

(a) The library faculty have never been and are not now in jeopardy in matters such as promotion, tenure and grievances. The Librarian, ever since the librarians gained faculty status, has served the library faculty in the role of a dean. The Librarian has been a full-fledged member of the Council of Deans and a full fledged member of the Board of Review with the same authority, responsibility, and voting power as any other member.

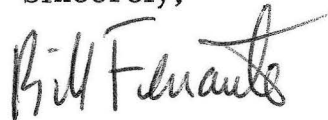
(b) In matters of grievances, the Librarian has served the role of the dean. This is on the basis of an understanding reached with the AAUP during the negotiations which lead to the contract currently in effect. I don't know of any case where a grievance relating to a member of the library faculty was referred to an outside administrator.

<sup>NOT</sup>(c) The Librarian does not function often as a dean but always as a dean, "by administrative courtesy" but by firmly established administrative policy. The Librarian's role as a dean has as much legal basis as that of any other dean.

I am not opposed to changing the title of the Librarian. I am opposed to approving a Faculty Senate Bill which includes a report with so many errors. I brought these errors to the attention of the Chairman of the Faculty Senate Library Committee, in a letter dated January 25, 1974. A copy of my letter is enclosed.

I shall be available to meet with you, the Executive Committee or the Library Committee to discuss the Bill if necessary.

Sincerely,



William R. Ferrante  
Acting President

btc

Enc.

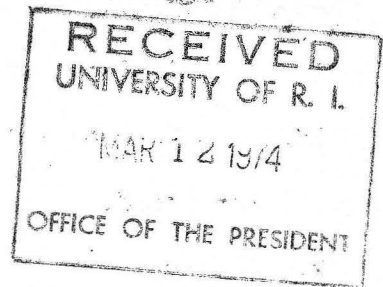
cc: Mr. George Parks  
Prof. John Peterson

Serial Number 73-74--30  
UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

FACULTY SENATE

BILL

Adopted by the Faculty Senate



TO: Acting President Ferrante  
FROM: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

1. The Attached BILL, titled Report of the Library Committee

is forwarded for your consideration.

2. The original and two copies for your use are included.
3. This BILL was adopted by vote of the Faculty Senate on 3/7/74  
(date)
4. After considering this bill, will you please indicate your approval or disapproval. Return the original or forward it to the Board of Regents, completing the appropriate endorsement below.
5. In accordance with Section 8, paragraph 2 of the Senate's By-Laws, this bill will become effective on 3/28/74 (date), three weeks after Senate approval, unless: (1) specific dates for implementation are written into the bill; (2) you return it disapproved; (3) you forward it to the Board of Regents for their approval; or (4) the University Faculty petitions for a referendum. If the bill is forwarded to the Board of Regents, it will not become effective until approved by the Board.

3/8/74  
(date)

Maury Klein /s/  
Chairman of the Faculty Senate  
Maury Klein

ENDORSEMENT 1.

TO: Chairman of the Faculty Senate  
FROM: President of the University

1. Returned.
2. Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_.
3. (If approved) In my opinion, transmittal to the Board of Regents is not necessary.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
President

(OVER)

ALTERNATE ENDORSEMENT 1.

TO: Chairman of the Board of Regents.

FROM: The University President

1. Forwarded.

2. Approved.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
(date) President

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ENDORSEMENT 2.

TO: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

FROM: Chairman of the Board of Regents, via the University President.

1. Forwarded.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
(date) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Office)

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ENDORSEMENT 3.

TO: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

FROM: The University President

1. Forwarded from the Chairman of the Board of Regents.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
(date) President

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Original received and forwarded to the Secretary of the Senate and Registrar for filing in the Archives of the University.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
(date) Chairman of the Faculty Senate



UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND  
Kingston, Rhode Island

FACULTY SENATE

The Faculty Senate Library Committee was asked to consider the question of the status of the Library and of the Library faculty. This request grew out of the desire on the part of the latter to achieve regular and clearly defined positions within the organizational structure of the University. Having considered the question the Committee brings forth the following recommendation which takes the form of two additions to the University Manual:

- 3.40.13 The University Libraries shall provide a maximum of effective service in advancing the academic interests in instruction, research and extension for all of the University's faculty and students.
- 3.40.14 The Dean of Libraries (University Librarian) shall be responsible for the effective administration of his administrative unit; promote its efficiency by every approved means; give attention to the effectiveness of instruction and the supervision of faculty; recommend to the Vice President for Academic Affairs persons for appointment, dismissal or other changes in status; and prepare a budget of estimated receipts and expenditures for his academic unit for the ensuing year, and, after it has been approved, administer it.

On April 1, 1971 the Board of Regents approved the recommendation to grant full faculty status to all qualified librarians. Among the statements approved by the Board of Regents on that date was "that qualified librarians who are eligible for faculty status receive all the benefits as well as assume all the responsibilities of full faculty members as defined in the University Manual."

And yet, unlike other faculties the library faculty is a faculty without a dean. This fact not only tends in principle to separate library faculty from all other faculty, but it also fosters that separation in practise. For as a direct result of being a faculty without a dean, library faculty are in continual jeopardy in matters such as promotion, tenure and grievances. For example, grievances with respect to library faculty are not now referred to the dean of that faculty (since no such dean exists) but must instead be referred to an outside administrator. By administrative courtesy the University Librarian often functions as dean but such a role has no established legal basis and may be challenged at any time.

But when on May 28, 1970, the Faculty Senate voted overwhelmingly to accord full faculty status to qualified librarians, the action and intent of that body was not to separate librarians from the faculty but rather to unite them to the faculty; not to grant librarians partial faculty status but to grant them full faculty status. It is, then, for the purpose of normalizing and fully realizing the faculty status of librarians that the preceding recommendation is made.

Robert Bell  
John Bik, student  
Rick Diwbough, student  
Roger Goos  
Marilyn Malina  
Spencer Martin  
Thomas Rhodes, student  
Norman Watkins  
John Peterson, Chairman

January 25, 1974

MEMORANDUM

TO: Faculty Senate Library Committee, Faculty Senate Office,  
E. Roosevelt Hall

FROM: William R. Ferrante, Acting President

SUBJECT: Report of the Faculty Senate Library Committee  
filed with the agenda for the Faculty Senate meeting  
scheduled for January 24, 1974

I have read the recommendations included in the referenced report. I find both acceptable and will accept them if they are sent to me in the form of an approved Senate bill. It appears from your recommendation for Section 3.40.14 "The Dean of Libraries" that you intend to change the title of the position currently occupied by the University Librarian, George Parks. That is, you intend that his title should not be University Librarian but Dean of Libraries. This point is not clear to me since you also include in parentheses "University Librarian" with the heading for Section 3.40.14. Do you intend that the University Librarian have two titles, University Librarian and the Dean of the Libraries? Except for my own personal preference that one position should carry one title, I will have no difficulty with whatever recommendation is forwarded to me.

I say that the effect of your recommendations is simply to change the title of University Librarian because the duties which you specify for the Dean of Libraries in Section 3.40.14 are currently the specific duties of the University Librarian.

I must take issue with the following quoted from the first paragraph on the second page of your report: "For as a direct result of being a faculty without a dean, library faculty are in continual jeopardy in matters such as promotion, tenure, and grievances. For example, grievances with respect to library faculty are not now referred to the Dean of that faculty (since no such dean exists) but must be instead referred to an outside administrator. By administrative courtesy the University Librarian often functions as

dean but such a role has no established legal basis and may be challenged at any time." The first and second sentences quoted here are both incorrect. Library faculty have never been in jeopardy in matters such as promotion, tenure, and grievances. The fact is that the University Librarian serves the library faculty as any academic dean serves a college faculty. The University Librarian served as a member of the Board of Review when it was the responsibility of the Board of Review to consider promotions, tenure, and leaves of absence. The University Librarian functioned as any academic dean did on the Board of Review; he had the same power, the same authority, the same vote and the same voice. I know of no case where the library faculty were in jeopardy because the University Librarian did not have the title, dean. I have recently reviewed this statement with Mr. Parks who agreed that he also knew of no case where library faculty were in jeopardy for the reasons stated in your report. If you know of any case where library faculty were in jeopardy, I will appreciate it if you would bring it to my attention.

The second sentence quoted above is also untrue. Since the signing of the collective bargaining agreement between the URI-AAUP and the Board of Regents, only one grievance was instituted by a member of the library faculty which normally would have been heard at the level of the dean. When this grievance was instituted, the AAUP representative questioned Dr. Baum on who would serve the role of a dean in the grievance. Dr. Baum made it clear that it would be Mr. Parks, the University Librarian, in all cases. As a matter of fact, Dr. Baum recalled that during negotiations between the collective bargaining teams it was stated that in matters affecting the library faculty the University Librarian would serve in the role of the dean. I know of no grievance filed by a member of the library faculty which was referred to an outside administrator unless you mean by this that the AAUP asked the President who would function as the dean in the grievance referred to here. If you know of a case where a grievance filed by a library faculty member was referred to an outside administrator, I will appreciate it if you would bring it to my attention.

Please understand that I do not object to the two recommendations made by the Library Committee but I do take exception to the sentences quoted above. Since they are factually untrue, I believe they should be corrected at the Senate meeting at which the report is considered. At a recent meeting at which the Vice President for Academic Affairs and I met with the faculty of the University library, the question of the status of the University Librarian and his title was raised. I made it clear at that time that if it were the desire of the library faculty to have the University

Librarian assume the title of dean, I would approve such a request. I suggested at that time that if the library faculty and the University Librarian wished to accomplish this, they should make this known to me through the Librarian and that I would act upon the request favorably. It is my judgment that this is a matter which does not require Faculty Senate action. On the other hand, I am happy to know that the Faculty Senate Committee on the University Library is in agreement with this objective.

lp

cc: Prof. M. Klein, Chmn., Fac. Senate  
Prof. R. Gutchen, Pres., AAUP  
Mr. G. Parks